



Preparing Australian medical students for climate change

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Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Climate change is now recognised as a global public health problem and the future medical workforce will be working during a period when the health impacts of climate change are likely to be significant. **OBJECTIVE:** This article discusses the ongoing training on the health impacts of climate change for the current and future medical workforce. **DISCUSSION:** The role of medical practitioners in the coming decades will need to include assisting communities to adapt to changing climatic conditions, managing climate sensitive illnesses, and contributing to mitigation efforts to prevent climate change. Climate change and health should be built into the curricula of Australian medical schools spanning public health, clinical medicine, preventive health and global health. We propose a problem based learning approach to highlight clinical and public health implications, and present two hypothetical case studies suitable for teaching purposes.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker, Public

Other Communication Audience: Media

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Air Pollution: Dust, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): Smoke

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Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Wildfires

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Temperature: Extreme Heat

Geographic Feature: ☐

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☐

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Australasia

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation): ☐

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact: ☐

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Diabetes/Obesity, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Respiratory Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria, Ross River Virus

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Other Mental Disorder

Medical Community Engagement: ☐

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☐

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: ☐

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

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Children, Low Socioeconomic Status

Resource Type: ☐

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article

Timescale: ☐

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified